

## Pneumococcal Vaccines clinic PSA

The Bedford Board of Health is holding a Pneumococcal vaccination clinic, by appointment only, to provide Pneumococcal vaccination to Bedford residents 65 years of age or over. There will be two types of Pneumococcal vaccines offered at the clinic, **Pneumovax-23** and **Prevnar-13**. The clinic is scheduled on Tuesday, March 24th from 10:00 to 11:00 AM at the Town Center Building (yellow building behind Town Hall), 12 Mudge Way, Flint Room; second Floor. You will need an appointment to attend this clinic. The vaccines are purchased through the Board of Health vaccine reimbursement program, so we will need to contact your health insurance provider to ensure you have coverage to pay for this vaccine. Limited doses of Pneumovax-23 are available for people who do not have health insurance. For an appointment, please call the Board of Health at 781-276-6507 with your health insurance information.

The CDC now recommends that all adults 65 years or older receive two types of pneumococcal vaccine; Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (Prevnar-13) which protects against 13 strains of pneumococcus bacteria and Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (Pneumovax-23) which protects against 23 strains of pneumococcus bacteria. Adults age 65 years or older who have not previously received Prevnar-13 and/or Pneumovax-23 should receive both vaccines in a series, with Prevnar-13 dispensed first. Adults age 65 years and older who have previously received one or more doses of Pneumovax23 should receive a dose of Prevnar-13, but it must be at least 1 year after the receipt of the most recent Pneumovax23 dose. Both types of Pneumococcal vaccines, Prevnar-13 and Pneumovax-23, will be available at this clinic.

Each year in the United States, about 18,000 adults 65 years or older die and thousands more end up in the hospital because of pneumococcal disease. The best way to prevent pneumococcal disease is by getting vaccinated. Pneumococcal disease is caused by the Streptococcus pneumonia bacteria which can lead to serious infections of the lung (pneumonia), blood (bacteremia) and the covering of the brain (meningitis). The risk of getting Pneumococcal disease is significantly higher for adults 65 years of age and older. Younger people who have long term health problems, diseases leading to a weakened immune system, or who are taking drugs or treatments that lower the body's resistance to infection are also at risk. In addition, any adult who is a smoker or has asthma is recommended to receive the vaccine. If you have question regarding whether you should have the vaccine(s), you are advised to call your doctor.

For the Clinic on March 24th, once you receive your appointment time, please bring all your insurance cards and wear clothing that allows for easy access to your arm for vaccine administration.